

Mayor's Office of New Bostonians
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Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

The New Bostonian

Winter 2007-2008

*To strengthen the ability of residents from diverse
cultural and linguistic communities, to play
an active role in the economic, civic, social, and cultural
life of the City of Boston, and to promote
the commemoration and public understanding of the contributions of immigrants.*

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Mayor Menino's Column

It is always great to see such a diverse group of organizations coming together to support important initiative for this city and our country—unions, religious leaders, activists, and residents from across the region all standing together to make Boston a city that works for everyone.

Boston has always been a welcome destination for immigrants. In fact, 1 in 6 U.S. citizens trace their ancestry back to the port of Boston. Our residents come from every nation in the world. Today, there are more than 200,000 individuals living in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who are eligible for citizenship. Of those permanent residents, more than 80 percent live in the Greater Boston area. Many come from Spanish-speaking countries, including the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Colombia, and Guatemala.

We need to ensure that all of the voices in Boston are heard and that everyone has a chance to contribute, because diversity is Boston's greatest strength. As a result, the Office of New Bostonians joined forces with the Greater Boston *Ya Es Hora* (It's Time) campaign, to help eligible immigrants apply for citizenship and register to vote.

This effort was divided into two phases, *¡Ciudadanía!* (Citizenship!) and *¡Ve Y Vota!* (Go Vote!). The *¡Ciudadanía!* phase kicked off an unprecedented national year-long campaign to inform, educate and motivate eligible permanent Latino residents across the United States, in order to apply for U.S. citizenship. Locally, this campaign is coordinated by an alliance of community organizations and unions, such as SEIU 615, in collaboration with several media outlets, such as Univision and El Mundo, with the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians, the Boston Public Libraries, and the Boston Centers for Youth and Families. Since the campaign began, in January of 2007, more than 519,000 have begun the naturalization process and citizenship applications have increased more than 60 percent nationally.

The second part of this campaign, *¡Ve Y Vota!*, seeks to register thousands and mobilize more than half a million naturalized and native born Latino voters in 2008. I was honored to serve as the keynote speaker at the launch of this phase. After the event, I stayed to chat with many of the people who had gathered, and I was moved by the striking similarity in their stories and that of so many of our ancestors, including my own grandparents, who came to this country with little in their pockets, but hope in their hearts for a better way of life.

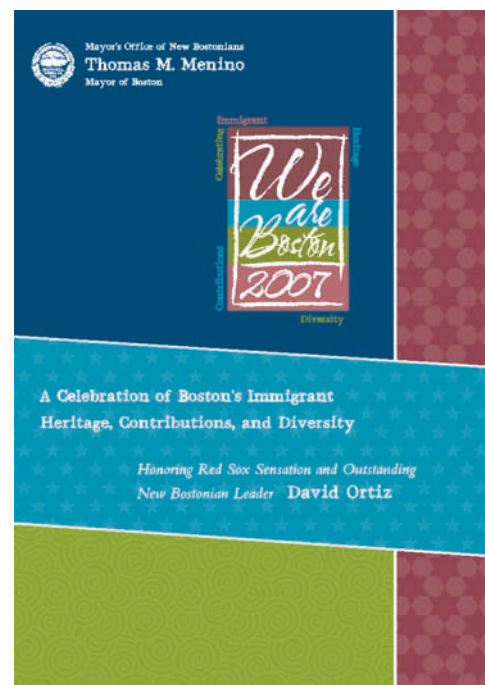
My administration is committed to breaking down the barriers of race, class, and culture that continue to hold back too many people. That is why I created the Office of New Bostonians (ONB) in 1998 to proactively partner with the growing and changing immigrant communities in Boston. I am extremely pleased with the accomplishments that ONB has made and its programs such as the Immigration Clinics which are offered twice monthly in City Hall, New Bostonians Community Day, Cultural Awareness Series, English for New Bostonians and We Are Boston. In addition, in order for our city to reach its full potential, we need to make sure that all of our residents have the ability to partake in the public process. The best way to achieve that goal is through citizenship and voter participation, which is why I am proud of the Office of New Bostonian's active participation in this campaign and its own effort to facilitate all new Bostonians' participation in the public process.

When we work together to address these issues in a thoughtful and constructive way, Boston will be a place where people of every color, gender, and income can have real opportunities to utilize their voice and be successful in America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas W. Menino".

We Are Boston 2007

On November 19, Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the Office of New Bostonians (ONB) hosted the second “We Are Boston” event with over 60 community partners at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The event embraced the city’s rich diversity, affirmed its immigrant heritage, and celebrated the achievements of New Bostonians. New and old Bostonians came together to recognize the remarkable contributions immigrants have made and the diverse talents that had become integral to the fabric of our city. Close to 1,200 guests attended and David Ortiz of the Boston Red Sox was honored with the 2007 New Bostonians Leadership Award in recognition for his numerous contributions and for being a role model and an inspiration to the immigrants in the city. Senator and Mrs. Edward Kennedy were honored as the “We Are Boston Champions.”



Reverend Cheng Imm Tan emceed the event together with honorary co-chair, James Rooney of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (host sponsor of the evening). Other honorary co-chairs included Jackie Jenkins-Scott (Wheelock College), Vanessa Calderón-Rosado (Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción), and Dr. Joseph Auon (Northeastern University). This year’s event co-chairs included Juan Carlos Morales (Bank of New York Mellon), Dr. Keith Motley (UMass Boston), Robert Smyth (Citizens Bank), and Héctor Piña (Merengue Restaurant). Event sub-committees were chaired by Aida Sabo, Alix Cantave, Gail Snowden, Kevin Johnson, Nancy Galindo, and Stefan Kochi.

Funds raised at the We Are Boston 2007 will support the City’s programs for New Bostonians and the English for New Bostonians (ENB) Project, a city-private-community partnership initiated by ONB.

In addition to David Ortiz, Mayor Menino also recognized individuals and organizations for their significant contributions in embracing Boston’s diversity and helped New Bostonians communities to fully participate in the economic, civic, cultural, and social life of the City.



Darryl S. Settles, owner of Bob’s Southern Bistro, was recipient of the We Are Boston 2007 Community Leadership Award. Darryl entered the restaurant business in 1990 when he purchased Bob the Chef’s Restaurant. Capitalizing on the reputation of the restaurant as a mean to give back to the community, Darryl has been an active supporter of various organizations in the area that includes Community Servings, Dimmock Community Health Center, United South End Settlements and many more. Herbert Maisonet, recipient of the We Are Boston 2007 Youth Leadership Award, was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Hyde Park. A graduate of Boston Arts Academy in 2007, Herbert began his music career at age 5 and his musical credits included



touring with Mark Anthony and playing at the Salsa Festival in California and in Mexico City. Currently a freshman at Wheaton College, Herbert is involved in the Latin Student Association and is the lead saxophone player in the college’s jazz band. State Street Corporation was awarded the We Are Boston 2007 Corporate Leadership Award for their commitment in promoting diversity through its business and community partnerships. For the past couple of years, its Supplier Diversity Program, established in 1983, has spent close to \$85 million with minority

and women owned businesses. Last year, The State Street Foundation, Inc. gave \$6.8 million in grants to Boston and Quincy nonprofits that support education, human services, and community improvement.

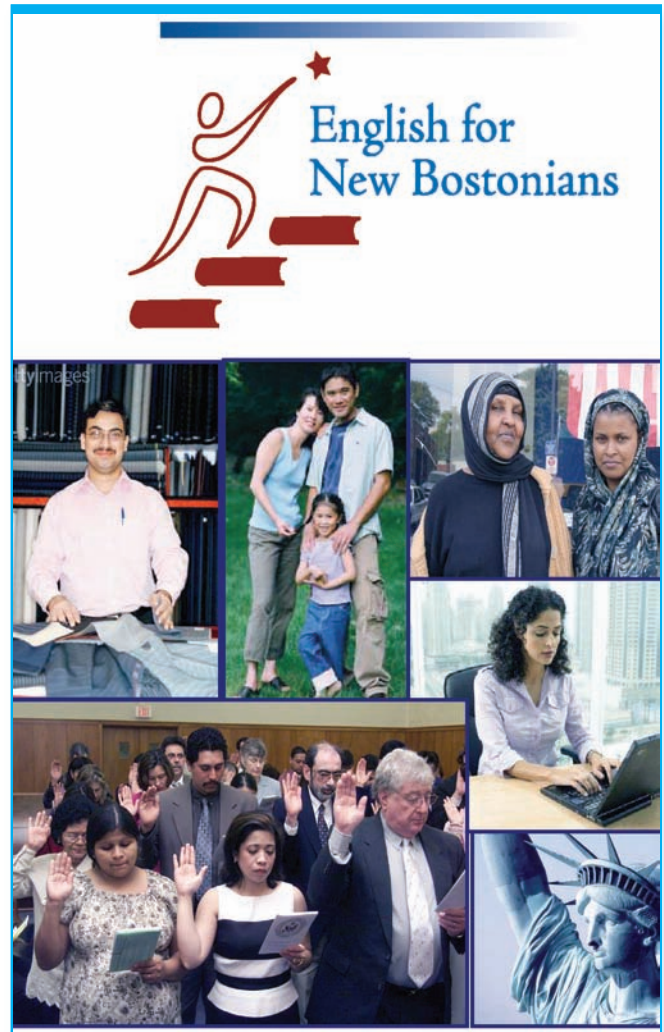
English for New Bostonians (ENB)

ENB is a public-private partnership initiated by the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians (MONB) in 2001 to expand the city's capacity to meet the demand for English classes. The initiative increases access to classes, builds ESOL system capacity, creates new opportunities to learn English at work and at home, promotes employer engagement, and increases state, federal and private funding. From 2001-2005 (ENB I), 32 grants were awarded to community based agencies that served a total of over 1,000 students.

ENB II (2005-2008), with a budget over of over \$1.2 million dollars, funded 24 ESOL programs in the Boston area and had served 1,000 students to date. In addition, ENB II have also started two new initiatives: the launch of the Workplace ESOL classes in March at the Marine Industrial Park, with the participation of 5 local employers, and a technology-based pilot program (the Multi-Media Project) with 3 community providers. ENB is a unique project that significantly increases the overall impact of Boston's ESOL system. With the commitment of the Mayor and ENB's major funders, ENB III, in the upcoming year, is continuing its mission with the goals to:

1. Provide access to ESOL classes for a minimum of 1,000 immigrants annually.
2. Provide capacity-building assistance to organizations that provide services to the underserved.
3. Advocate for increased state, federal and alternative sources of funding to support and sustain ESOL services through a public education and advocacy campaign.

To implement programs, ENB partners with the Boston Adult Literacy Fund (BALF), the Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services (JCS), Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), and the Jewish Vocational Services (JVS).



English programs are essential, not just for recent immigrants to engage in economic and social opportunities, but also for our great city to benefit from everything new Bostonians have to offer"

Mayor Thomas M. Menino

New Bostonians Community Day



Mayor Menino welcomed the New Bostonians communities to the 8th Annual New Bostonians Community Day (NBCD) that took place on September 18 at Boston City Hall Plaza. The celebration drew close to 2000 attendees, a record turnout! The event featured multicultural performances and over 100 community organizations and city departments participated. Community resources were distributed along with



free immigration consultations, higher education information, and multilingual tours of City Hall were conducted to familiarize community members with the building and its services.

Cultural Awareness Series



Implemented in 2004 and in collaboration with other City departments, the Cultural Awareness Series (CAS), an hour-long presentation, with cultural performances, aims to increase understanding and appreciation of the various cultural heritages (customs, foods, languages, literature, etc.) that are represented in the City and among city employees. In 2007, the countries highlighted were Greece, Haiti and Cape Verde (Cabo Verde). The three



events drew enthusiastic participation from the City and the communities. MONB plans to feature 5 diverse cultures in 2008.

Immigration Clinics

Over 200 people sought free immigration consultation in 2007 through this biweekly program. Constituents meet with our volunteer immigration attorneys in confidence regarding their immigration concerns. In addition, if an individual needs further legal assistance after the initial consultation, the volunteer attorneys will provide a 15%-30% discount based on the person's income. The free consultations are held at Boston City Hall every first and third Wednesday of the month from 12PM to 2:30PM.

New Bostonians Summit

In order to address the three key issues (lack of ESOL, jobs, education) identified by the New Bostonians communities through a community survey last summer, MONB will bring together local businesses, funders, immigrant leaders, city officials, universities and mainstream leaders to work on these three key issues and to develop effective strategic action plans to move the issues forward for New Bostonians. Involving these 6 sectors together is an innovative and effective way to increase awareness on these concerns and to develop/expand resources that New Bostonians have been struggling with, many times, in isolation. In order to gather valuable recommendations and to ensure community ownership/involvement in the Summit, MONB facilitated a total of 4 community leaders forums, conducted 15 neighborhood focus groups, and held one-on-one meetings with 21 advocates in 2007. These events reached out to over 300 participants. For information on the Summit or to participate, please give us a call.

Interpreter Equipment

The Simultaneous Interpreter Equipment proves to be very valuable and effective tool in facilitating City departments' communication with the diverse linguistic communities. Each year, approximately 800-1000 individuals benefit from its usage. The equipment is also available, free of charge, to community-based organizations that need interpretation at meetings, activities and other events. Since its implementation, this system has been used on a regular basis by departments within Boston City Hall and on the average, lent to over 50 community-based organizations in Boston annually. The Interpreter Equipment has been used to interpret essential information to the Haitian, Chinese, Russian, and Latino communities.

Voter Registration

MONB, in collaboration with the City's Election Department, SEIU 615 and the League of Women's Voters, continues to have a presence in the citizenship swearing ceremonies to welcome New Bostonians into American citizenship. After the ceremonies, the new citizens are invited to register to vote and to fully take advantage of the services the city of Boston has to offer. Close to 200 individuals were registered in 2007.

Summary of ENB Survey

In 2006, MONB developed and conducted a survey of ENB students and explored the following 4 topics: country of origins and US arrival date, highest level of education achieved, employment history in the US and in the country of origin, and lastly, educational and employment goals. The survey aimed to collect data that could possibly be used to: (1) highlight the strengths and contributions New Bostonians bring to the City, and (2) to advocate for more funding for ESOL programs from our funders and other businesses. The survey was sent to all the 18 ENB programs citywide and 650 (out of a total enrollment of 983 students) responses were collected.

The results showed that the largest number of students came from Haiti, followed by China and Cape Verde and most arrived in 2005 (14%). The earliest reported arrival date, indicated by one student, was in 1963. Over 50% of respondents indicated that they had attained high school education. However, fewer students (16% vs. the City's average of 36%) had college education as provided by the US Bureau of Census 2000. The majority of the students (75%) indicated that they had worked in their own countries and 71% answered they had work history in the US, with 60% of them employed at the time of the survey. In regards to educational and employment goals, learning English was the top priority, followed by obtaining a college degree. Most number of respondents indicated that they would like to "work in a hospital" and to "obtain a better job."

Please visit our website www.cityofboston.gov/newbostonians to review the complete survey data.

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